

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) The ~~magnetic navigation system~~ **method** according to claim ~~[[10]]~~ **31** wherein the controller controls the positioners in response to movement of the magnet units, to apply a field whose direction is determined based upon a user-selected direction and ~~[[the]]~~ **a** strength of the field in the operation region.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ **method** according to claim ~~[[12]]~~ **19** wherein the support is generally arcuate and mounts the magnet units for arcuate movement in a plane generally transverse to ~~[[the]]~~ **a** longitudinal axis of the subject support.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ **method** according to claim ~~[[13]]~~ **19** wherein the support comprises first and second stanchions disposed on opposite sides of the patient support, each stanchion having an arcuate track, and mounting one of the units for coordinated movement about an arcuate path, so that the units remain opposite one another.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ **method** according to claim ~~[[12]]~~ **19** wherein the first axes of the magnet units are parallel.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ **method** according to claim ~~[[15]]~~ **19** wherein the first axes of the magnet units are collinear and extend through the operating region.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling magnets in two magnet units disposed on opposite sides of a subject on a support, the units including a magnet and a positioner for rotating the magnet about a first axis and pivoting the magnet about a second axis, the units being movable mounted on the support for movement about the subject, the method comprising selectively rotating and pivoting each magnet to maintain the magnetic field direction projected by the moving magnets as the units move on the support about an operating region of the subject to selectively orient a magnetically responsive medical device.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19 further comprising coordinating the movement of the magnet units with an imaging system to avoid positional interference between the imaging system and the magnet units.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19 further comprising adjusting the positions of the magnets in the magnet units while moving the magnet units to accommodate movements of an imaging system to maintain the desired orientation of the medical device.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 19 wherein the positions of the magnets are adjusted as the magnet units move to change the direction of the magnetic field applied by the magnet units to maintain the device in substantially the selected direction despite changes in the distance between the magnet units and the operating region.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 22 wherein the direction of the magnetic field applied by the magnet units is determined based upon a mathematical model.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 22 wherein the direction of the magnetic field applied by the magnet units is determined based upon a lookup table.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising mounting the magnet units on the support on opposite sides of a subject support in a generally opposed relation to apply the magnetic field to the operating region of the subject on the subject support, the support permitting the controlled rotation of the units about the subject support, while retaining the units in opposed relation.

29. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising controlling the positioners in response to a user-input selected magnetic field direction.

31. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising controlling the positioners of each of the magnet units in response to a user-input selected direction to apply the magnetic field in the operating region to cause the magnetically responsive device to orient substantially in the selected direction.

32. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising controlling the positioners of each of the magnet units to change the positions of the magnets as the magnet units move in order to maintain the magnetic field direction.